ment to support the States for facilitating faster achievement of the goal of universal elementary education are Operation Blackboard Revised scheme of Teacher Education. The Scheme of Teacher Education. The Scheme of Operation Blackboard seeks to bring about a qualitative improvement in all primary schools in the country by provision of all-weather buildings, sufficient instructional materials and at least two teachers. The Scheme of Non-Formal Education has been reorganised and expanded to provide education of a quality comparable to that of formal schools to those children who cannot attend formal schools e.g. the working children, girls who cannot attend whole-day schools and school drop-outs. The Scheme of Teacher Education provides for District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) to bring about improvement in the educational competence of teachers by continuous teacher education through pre-service and in-service training.

Talks between Foreign Ministers of Indian and Bangladesh regarding Sri Lanka issue

*127. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the gist of the discussions held between the visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister and our Minister of External Affairs on July 7 at Delhi; what were Bangladesh Minister's pleas or contentions about Sri Lanka and our Government's response thereto; and

(b) what are Bangladesh's views about Sri Lanka's action in trying to wreck SAARC by boycotting its meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The discussions during the Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit centred around the need to ensure that SAARC does not suffer as a result of Sri Lanka's decision to stay away from the meeting of the Council of Ministers. India and Bangladesh agreed that as provided under the SAARC Charter, bilateral and contentious issues had no place in SAARC.

There was also some discussion about bilateral matters. We stated our serious concern at the continuing influx of Chakma refugees into India.

Involvement of Indian Airlines and Air India employees in smuggling activities

*128. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases involving employees/officials of Indian Airlines and Air India (including crew members) in smuggling of gold and narcotics are on the increase during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and year-wise number of such employees/officials/crew members of Indian Airlines and Air India separately, reported to be involved in such activities during each of the last three years;

(c) what is the number of those found guilty and action taken against each of them as on 31st March, 1989; and

(d) what are the details of the preventive steps Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. There is no significant increase in the number of cases of smuggling activities in